

17. (Amended) The lens of claim [16] 1, wherein the axicon includes a polymer.

18. (Amended) The lens of claim [16] 1, wherein the axicon is disposed at a substantially spherical surface of the lens.

19. (Amended) The lens of claim [16] 1, wherein a diffractive optical element and the axicon are disposed at different surfaces of the lens.

20. (Amended) The lens of claim [16] 1, comprising a diffractive optical element that includes at least eight phase levels.

21. (Amended) The lens of claim [16] 1, comprising a diffractive optical element that includes fewer than nine phase levels.

22. (Amended) The lens of claim [16] 1, wherein the axicon is affixed to a surface of the lens.

23. (Amended) The lens of claim [16] 1, wherein the lens has an aspherical surface having the optical properties of a combination of a spherical surface with the axicon.

24. (Amended) The lens of claim [16] 1, wherein the lens includes a doublet.

25. (Amended) The lens of claim [16] 1, wherein the lens includes a Cook triplet anastigmat.

26. (Amended) The lens of claim [16] 1, wherein the lens includes a symmetric double Gaussian.

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27. (Amended) The lens of claim [16] 1, wherein the MTF of the lens is higher with the axicon than without the axicon for bar code symbols having spatial wavelengths of 10-20 mils, inclusive.

28. (Amended) The lens of claim [16] 1, wherein the MTF of the lens is at least 0.2 for a 10 mil bar code symbol that is from about 4 to about 16 inches away from the lens.

Respectfully submitted,

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